



Backcountry Guide



Sunrise near Stoney Indian Lake Campground

photo by David Restivo

Glacier's Backcountry

GLACIER REPRESENTS THE CORE OF A VAST TRACT of wildlands often referred to as the “crown of the continent.” More than 95% of Glacier’s 1,013,000-plus acres is proposed for inclusion in the national Wilderness Preservation System. It is the policy of the National Park Service to manage proposed wilderness areas in accordance with the Wilderness Act of 1964 in order to protect wilderness values and characteristics until such time as Congress acts.

The fundamental tenets of the Wilderness Act most visible to backcountry visitors include:

- *Prohibition of motorized equipment and mechanized transport, including bicycles and canoe carts, in the backcountry (except during emergencies or to meet the minimum requirements for the administration of the area).*
- *Retention of the land’s primeval character and influence without permanent improvements (except for those authorized NPS administrative facilities essential to meet minimum requirements for the administration of the area and its historic structures).*

During the summer camping season (May 1 to November 20), most backcountry travelers using Glacier’s extensive trail system are required to camp in designated backcountry campgrounds. This policy is validated by recreation ecology research that indicates widespread resource impacts can be minimized in popular areas by concentrating use in designated sites.

You will find little evidence of human impacts or development in Glacier’s pristine, off-trail areas. These vast areas offer greater solitude and challenge, but are extremely rugged, with greater inherent risks and infrequent ranger patrols. While off-trail travel is generally permissible, it is recommended only for very experienced, skilled backcountry travelers.

Glacier’s backcountry has grown in popularity over the years, resulting in cumulative impacts upon the park’s sensitive natural resources. High levels of backcountry use are typically concentrated in July and August, heightening the need for visitor stewardship and sound backcountry management practices.



photos by Joe Manley and Brad Blickhan

To help plan your trip into Glacier’s backcountry visit www.nps.gov/glac/activities/bcguide1.htm for additional information.

On the Trail

SETTING OUT

Check that you have all your gear. Take a moment to read trailhead signs. They contain important information.

Allow plenty of time for your trip. Consider distance, elevation, weight carried, physical condition, weather, and hours of daylight remaining. Early morning starts are recommended. Snow covers some trails well into July, so be prepared to do some route finding. Set a pace that all party members can handle.

PRACTICE GOOD STEWARDSHIP

Help minimize impacts to fragile soil and vegetation. Stay on the trail and hike single file. Do not walk off-trail when the tread is muddy. Wear gaiters if mud is deep. Shortcutting switchbacks is destructive and illegal. Pick up litter found along the way. Select resilient areas such as rocks or snow for rest breaks and other stops.

For sanitation along the trail where toilets are not available, carry a trowel and bury feces in a cathole, 6-8" deep in organic soil, at least 200 ft. from water. Fill and disguise hole and pack out paper. Urinate on durable surfaces that will not be damaged by animals digging for salts and minerals found in urine.

Horses have the right-of-way. If you meet riders, step off trail, on the downhill side, and stand quietly until they pass.

AT CAMP

Campgrounds have tent sites, pit toilets, food hanging or storage devices, and food preparation areas. Tents must be pitched within designated tent sites. Do not pitch tents on undisturbed vegetation, dig or trench around a tent, or pound nails in trees.



Hikers in a field of glaucous lilies



photo by Joe Manley

Remember! Your's may not be the only footprints you see along the trail.

Fires are allowed in some campgrounds. If permitted, build fires only in designated pits. Collect only dead and down wood. Keep fires small and completely within fire pits. Be sure the fire is out cold before you leave. You may burn paper refuse at sites where fires are allowed, but do not burn plastic, foil, or food.

Properly store all food, cookware, and garbage using the designated food storage device. A rope at least 25 feet long is required. Store other gear in your tent. Cook and eat only in the designated food preparation area. Avoid odorous foods and plan meals so there are no leftovers. Never cook or eat in your tent. Do not wash yourself, clothes, or dishes directly in a lake or stream. Strain food scraps from gray water and pack them out with your garbage. Scatter the gray water at least 100 feet from camp, lakes, and streams so that it will filter into the soil. Use biodegradable soap, if any. Pack out all garbage. Do not throw garbage or food scraps in the pit toilets; doing so may attract bears, and shortens the useful life of the pit toilet.

Please be considerate of others and keep noise or loud conversation to a minimum.

Deer, goats, porcupines, and other animals are attracted by sweat and urine. They can destroy vegetation, campsites, clothes, boots, and camping gear in search of salt and other sweaty gear. Urinate only in the pit toilets. When pit toilets are unavailable, urinate on rocks, gravel, or snow to prevent digging by animals. Some campgrounds have been abused in the past, and efforts have been made to restore them. Please use only established trails and avoid revegetated areas or blocked social trails to aid in recovery.

Plan Ahead

Proper planning and preparation is the key to a successful trip. Read the detailed information in this publication. Carefully consider daily distances and elevation changes (both up and down). Make sure that the degree of difficulty of your itinerary is compatible with all members of your party. As a general rule, carrying a heavy pack for more than 10 miles and a 2,500 foot elevation change would constitute an extremely rigorous day.

We are unable to provide detailed trip planning services over the phone. It is your responsibility to plan and prepare your outing. Hiking and camping guidebooks and topographic maps are available for reference at Visitor Centers and Ranger Stations. They are also available for purchase through Glacier Natural History Association's in-park bookstores, by mail order (see back page), and at many outdoor retail stores.



Indian paintbrush

Backpacking and Bears

Hiking in Bear Country

Don't Surprise Bears! Bears will usually move out of the way if they hear people approaching, so make noise. Most bells are not enough. Calling out and clapping hands loudly at regular intervals are better ways to make your presence known. Hiking quietly endangers you, the bear, and other hikers.

A bear constantly surprised by quiet hikers may become habituated to close human contact and less likely to avoid people. This sets up a dangerous situation for both visitors and bears.



Grizzly bear

Don't Make Assumptions! You can't predict when and where bears might be encountered. Don't assume you don't have to make noise on a well-used trail. Some of the most frequently used trails in the park are surrounded by excellent bear habitat. People have been charged and injured by bears fleeing from silent hikers who surprised them along the trail. Even if other hikers haven't seen bears recently, don't assume that bears aren't there.

Don't assume a bear's hearing is any better than your own. Some trail conditions make it hard for bears to see, hear, or smell approaching hikers. Be particularly careful by streams, against the wind, or in dense vegetation. A blind corner or a rise in the trail also requires special attention.

Don't Approach Bears! Bears spend a lot of time eating, so avoid hiking in obvious feeding areas like berry patches, cow parsnip thickets, or fields of glacier lilies. Keep children close by. Hike in groups and avoid hiking early in the morning, late in the day, or after dark.

Never intentionally get close to a bear. Individual bears have their own personal space requirements which vary depending on their mood. Each will react differently and its behavior can't be predicted. All bears are dangerous and should be respected equally.

If You Encounter a Bear

What do you do if you run into a bear? There is no easy answer. Like people, bears react differently to each situation. The best thing you can do is to follow all the suggestions for hiking and camping in bear country. Avoid encounters by being alert and making noise.

Bears may appear tolerant of people and then attack without warning. A bear's body language can help determine its mood. In general, bears show agitation by swaying their heads, huffing, and clacking their teeth. Lowered head and laid-back ears also indicate aggression. Bears may stand on their hind legs or approach to get a better view, but these actions are not necessarily signs of aggression. The bear may not have identified you as a person and is unable to smell or hear you from a distance.

THE MAJORITY OF BEAR ATTACKS ARE DEFENSIVE REACTIONS AND OCCUR BECAUSE PEOPLE SURPRISE BEARS.

If you surprise a bear here are a few guidelines that may help.

- Talk quietly; the time to make loud noise is before you encounter a bear. Try to detour around the bear if possible.
- Do not run! Back away slowly, but stop if it seems to agitate the bear.
- Assume a nonthreatening posture. Turn sideways, or bend at the knees to appear smaller.

- Use peripheral vision. Bears may interpret direct eye contact as threatening.
- Keep your pack on for protection in case of an attack.
- If a bear attacks and you have pepper spray, use it!
- If the bear makes contact, protect your chest and abdomen by falling to the ground on your stomach, or assuming a fetal position to reduce the severity of an attack. Cover the back of your neck with your hands. Do not move until you are certain the bear has left.

IN RARE CASES PREDATORY ATTACKS MAY OCCUR.

These encounters can be very serious because it often means the bear is looking for food and preying on you. If a bear stalks you and then attacks, or if a bear attacks at night, you need to react differently than in a defensive attack.

- Don't play dead! Try to escape, preferably to a building, car, or up a tree.
- If you cannot escape, or if the bear follows, use pepper spray, or shout and try to intimidate the bear with a branch or rock.
- Fight back! Do whatever it takes to let the bear know you are not easy prey.

Backcountry Hazards

Accept the Risks

Risk is inherent with backcountry travel in Glacier and there is no guarantee for your safety. Significant hazards that you may have to contend with include stream and river crossings, steep snowfields, precipitous cliffs and ledges, unstable sedimentary rock, dangerous wildlife, and ever-changing weather, including sudden snowstorms and lightning.

While the National Park Service is renowned for its search-and-rescue capabilities, these services are often hours, if not days, away. The following factors commonly result in backcountry emergencies in Glacier:

- Failure to plan ahead and prepare
- Solo backcountry travel
- Inadequate footwear, clothing, or equipment
- Lack of skill or fitness level for type of terrain or outing
- Impaired or poor judgement, sometimes induced by fatigue, exhaustion, or hypothermia
- Unsafe behavior in bear country
- Failure to let family and/or friends know of your specific plans or route

SNOW & WATER HAZARDS

Trail status reports are available online at www.nps.gov/glac/activities/trails.htm and at Backcountry Permit issuing stations. This report notes current snow and water hazards, and the schedule of bridge installation throughout the park. The most significant snow and water hazards are noted on the adjacent map, at permit issuing stations, and on newer *Trails Illustrated/National Geographic Topographic Map of Glacier and Waterton Lakes National Park*.

WATER TREATMENT

The protozoan *Giardia lamblia* may be present in lakes and streams. When ingested, their reproductive cysts may cause an intestinal disorder that appears weeks after your trip. The easiest method of effective water treatment is to boil water for one minute (up to three minutes at higher elevations) or use a filter capable of removing particles as small as 1 micron.

HYPOTHERMIA

Be prepared for sudden weather changes. Cool, wet, and windy conditions can cause hypothermia. Hypothermia is a progressive lowering of the body’s core temperature causing physical collapse and diminished mental capacity. Prevent hypothermia by using rain gear before you become wet. Minimize wind exposure and if your clothes become wet, replace them with dry ones. Avoid sweating in cold weather by dressing in layers, rather than a single bulky garment. On warm sunny days watch for signs of heat exhaustion. Stay well-hydrated in all conditions.

SOLO TRAVEL

Solo travel in the backcountry is not recommended. The best insurance for a safe and enjoyable trip rests with your ability to exercise good judgement, avoid unnecessary risks, and assume responsibility for your own safety while visiting Glacier’s backcountry.

Trip Essentials

The following items should be carried on every trip into Glacier’s backcountry.

- Topographic maps
- Compass
- First Aid Kit
- Enough food (low-odor)
- Tent
- Sleeping bag and pad
- Appropriate footwear
- Appropriate clothing (layering concept is best)
- Rain jacket and pants
- Lightweight campshoes
- A weatherproof food & garbage hanging bag
- 25 feet of rope for hanging food and garbage
- Mesh or small strainer (for removing food scraps from gray water)
- Collapsible water container
- Lightweight campstove and adequate fuel
- Emergency signalling device
- Insect repellent
- Trowel for human waste disposal
- Water purifier, filter and/or treatment tablets



Several trails in the park require stream crossings

Backpacking and Bears

Pepper Spray

This aerosol pepper derivative triggers temporarily incapacitating discomfort in bears. It is a non-toxic and non-lethal means of deterring bears.

There have been cases where pepper spray apparently repelled aggressive or attacking bears and accounts where it has not worked as well as expected. Factors influencing effectiveness include distance, wind, rainy weather, temperature extremes, and product shelf life.

If you decide to carry spray, use it only in situations where aggressive bear behavior justifies its use. Pepper spray is intended to be sprayed into the face of an oncoming bear. It is not intended to act as a repellent. Do not spray gear or around camp with pepper spray.

Under no circumstances should pepper spray create a false sense of security or serve as a substitute for standard safety precautions in bear country.

Be aware that you may not be able to cross the U.S./Canada border with some brands of pepper spray. Canadian Customs will allow the importations of USEPA-approved bear spray into Canada. Specifications state that the bear spray must have USEPA on the label.

Feminine Hygiene and Bears

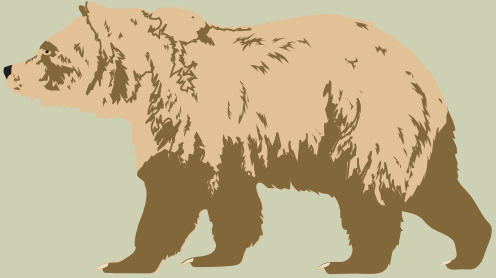

Stay clean, but avoid scented soaps, deodorants, and cosmetics. Although evidence is inconclusive, sexual activity or a woman’s menstrual period may attract bears. Many women have traveled into Glacier’s backcountry safely, during their menstrual cycle, by keeping themselves as clean and odor-free as possible. The premise is to keep a clean camp. Used feminine products should never be thrown into the backcountry pit toilets!

Many women fill a heavy duty Ziploc bag with some baking soda, put used feminine products inside, and then put that bag inside one or two more heavy duty Ziploc bags. Never keep this bag inside your tent and always hang it with food, garbage, and other scented items, from the food hanging device.



Blond colored black bear

What Kind of Bear is That?

Grizzly Bear Color	Range from blond to nearly black, sometimes have silver-tipped guard hairs that give them a “grizzled” appearance.
Physical Features	Grizzly bears often have a dished-in face and a large hump of heavy muscle above the shoulders. Their claws are around four inches (10 cm) long.
	
Black Bear Color	Color is not a reliable indicator of species. Contrary to their name, black bears also come in brown, cinnamon, and blond.
Physical Features	Facial profile is straighter from tip of nose to ears, without the dished-in look. Lack the hump of a grizzly and have shorter claws, generally around one and a half inches (4 cm) long.
	
A fed bear is a dead bear! Bears that obtain human food may have to be destroyed. Don’t leave any food, packs, or garbage unattended, even for a few minutes.	

Obtaining Your Backcountry Use Permit

Permit Fees

The following per person per night fees are charged on permits issued between June 1 and September 30

- Age 17 and over \$4.00
- Age 9 through 16 \$2.00
- Age 8 and under free
- Golden Age & Golden Access cardholders \$2.00

• **Season Pass \$50.00***

*Valid for one year from date of issue, and covers per night camping fees for the person named on the pass. It does not cover advance reservation fees.

Reservation Fees

Backcountry trips starting between June 15 and October 31 may be reserved in advance. A fee of \$20.00 per trip is charged, in addition to per person per night fees.

No reservation fee is charged for walk-in permits, obtained less than one day prior to the start of the trip, however per person per night fees are charged.

PERMITS MAY BE OBTAINED BY STOPPING IN AT ANY of the designated backcountry permit issuing stations listed below. All permits must be picked up in person no sooner than one day in advance of your departure. The advance reservation fee (\$20) will not be charged when you request a permit less than one day in advance, however per person per night fees are charged.

- **Apgar Backcountry Permit Center**
(open daily from May 1 through October 31)
Park Headquarters (weekdays when the Apgar Backcountry Permit Center has closed for the season)
Apgar Visitor Center (weekends when Apgar Backcountry Permit Center has closed for the season)
- **St. Mary Visitor Center**
(open daily from late May through September)
- **Many Glacier** (open late May to mid-September)
- **Two Medicine and Polebridge Ranger Stations**
(open daily from early June through mid-September)
- **Waterton Lakes National Park Visitor Reception Centre** (open daily from early June through mid-September) accepts payment by credit card only (no cash), plus additional phone charge.

ADVANCE RESERVATIONS

Advance reservations (requests made more than one day prior to the start of the trip) may be requested for any of Glacier’s backcountry campgrounds. Advance reservation applications are accepted for trips beginning June 15 through October 31. Reservation requests may not be postmarked sooner than April 15, 2003.

Applications may be submitted via regular or overnight mail (FedEx, UPS, etc...) or FAX. They are processed on a first-come first-served basis, based on the date of postmark or FAX date stamp. For example: applications postmarked or FAXed on the 15th are processed before applications postmarked or FAXed on the 16th. **Phone-in or e-mail applications are not accepted.** Walk-in requests for reservations may be made starting May 1, 2003, at open permit stations.

Advance reservation applications will be accepted on the official form only (additional copies may be obtained by mail or downloaded from the park website). A fee of \$20 must be submitted with each application. This fee may be submitted via personal check, money order, or credit card only. Reservation requests arriving without the fee payment, or unable to be filled, will have their payment and request returned. **Do not include per person per night fees with your reservation request.** They will be collected when you pick up your permit.

We strongly encourage you to develop a second itinerary that may explore some of the less popular areas, in the event that your first choice is not available. Successful applicants will receive a confirmation letter by mail or by email if you have provided an email address on the application form. The \$20 reservation fee will be deposited upon confirmation of a reservation.

Due to unpredictable campground opening dates, each campground has an “earliest available date” that applies to advance reservation itineraries. These dates are noted on pages 4 & 5. Although all advance reservation applications may be submitted starting April 15, do not submit one that requests a campground with dates prior to those listed. In a typical summer the dates listed represent the time of year the campground is snow free and available for back-country campers. If backcountry campgrounds emerge from snow-cover early, these campgrounds are placed in an “open” status prior to the dates specified, and are made available on a walk-in basis. In some years there is more snow than usual and campgrounds may not open by the dates listed or reserved. In those cases, reserved itineraries will need to be rearranged at a permit issuing station.

ADVANCE RESERVATION CHANGES

Requests to change confirmed advance reservations will not be accepted via phone. You have the following options:

- Call and cancel your reservation and submit a new application.
- Try to change your itinerary at the time of permit issuance.

REFUND/CANCELLATION POLICIES

A refund of your advance reservation application fee will only be provided when your initial advance reservation application is unsuccessful because campsites are not available. Refunds are not provided in cases of officially closed trails, weather, or late season snow conditions. In those cases, permit issuing staff will work to provide alternate itineraries of a similar nature.

In the event that your plans change and you cannot use any, or part, of your backcountry permit or reservation, you are encouraged to call (406-888-7900) to cancel your trip. A refund will not be provided, but you will allow other campers access to those sites.

I NEED MORE INFORMATION!

Check the park website (www.nps.gov/glac/activity.htm) for additional information. From March 15 to October 31, staff will be available, between noon and 4:30pm, at 406-888-5818 if you need information or have a question.

Winter Permits

During the winter backcountry camping season (November 20 through April 30), Backcountry Use Permits may be requested and approved in person or by telephone, up to seven days in advance. Approved permits must be picked up in person. There are no fees for winter Backcountry Use Permits. All parties will receive the weekly avalanche and other pertinent advisories and regulations.

Winter permits may be obtained at the following locations:

- Apgar Visitor Center (406-888-7939) on weekends and some holidays
- Park Headquarters (406-888-7800) on weekdays

If you call ahead and make prior arrangements you can also pick up a permit at the following ranger stations:

- St. Mary (406-732-7733)
- East Glacier (406-226-4473)
- Polebridge (406-888-7842)



Looking south from near Piegan Pass



Always filter or boil surface water in the park.



Stoney Indian Lake

photos by Bill Hayden and David Restivo

Hiker Shuttle Schedule

Serving points along the Going-to-the-Sun Road and Many Glacier, with connections to Chief Mountain and Waterton Lakes National Park

To better accommodate hikers, an expanded shuttle system will be in operation this summer. More frequent shuttles and the addition of transportation to and from Waterton should allow for more backpacking options. Please help reduce traffic and parking congestion in the park and consider using the shuttle.

Prices (either direction)

\$8.00/person/segment

West Glacier - Logan Pass
Logan Pass - St. Mary
St. Mary - Many Glacier
Many Glacier - Chief Mountain
Chief Mountain - Waterton

Additional shuttle information is available online at www.nps.gov/glac/shuttles.htm

Westbound - Read Times Up					Stops	Eastbound - Read Times Down				
			4:05pm	8:30pm	West Glacier, Alberta Visitor Center	7:30am	9:00am			4:15pm
10:40am		12:50pm	3:55pm	8:20pm	Apgar Backcountry Office	7:40am	9:10am	10:50am	1:00pm	4:25pm
10:20am	11:40am	12:30pm	3:35pm	8:00pm	Lake McDonald Lodge	8:10am	9:40am	11:20am	1:30pm	4:55pm
10:10am	11:30am	12:20pm	3:25pm	7:40pm	Avalanche Creek	8:20am	9:50am	11:30am	1:40pm	5:05pm
9:50am	11:10am	12:00pm	3:05pm	7:20pm	The Loop	8:40am	10:10am	11:50am	2:00pm	5:25pm
9:25am	10:45am	11:35am	2:40pm	6:55pm	Logan Pass - Arrive and Depart Times	9:00am	10:30am	12:10pm	2:20pm	5:45pm
9:10am		11:20am	2:25pm	6:40pm		9:15am		12:25pm	2:35pm	5:55pm
9:00am		11:10am	2:15pm	6:30pm	Siyeh Bend	9:25am		12:35pm	2:45pm	6:05pm
8:50am		11:00am	2:05pm	6:20pm	Gunsight Pass Trailhead	9:35am		12:45pm	2:55pm	6:15pm
8:40am		10:50am	1:55pm	6:10pm	Sun Point Parking Lot	9:45am		12:55pm	3:05pm	6:25pm
8:30am		10:40am	1:45pm	6:00pm	Rising Sun Motor Inn	9:55am		1:05pm	3:15pm	6:35pm
8:15am		10:25am	1:30pm	5:45pm	St. Mary Visitor Center	*11:00am		1:20pm	3:30pm	6:50pm
7:35am			12:50pm	*5:15pm	Many Glacier Hotel	11:40am		2:00pm	4:10pm	7:25pm
7:30am			12:45pm	5:00pm	Swiftcurrent Motor Inn	11:45am		2:05pm	4:15pm	7:30pm

*Connecting Shuttles to or from Waterton Lakes National Park

The 3:30pm shuttle from Waterton will connect, at Many Glacier, with the 5:15pm shuttle to St. Mary, Logan Pass, and West Glacier.	6:00pm	St. Mary Visitor Center	*11:00am
	*5:15pm	Many Glacier/Swiftcurrent	12:00pm
	4:15pm	Chief Mountain (Belly River Trailhead)	12:45pm
	3:30pm	Waterton (Prince of Wales Hotel)	1:30pm

The first eastbound shuttle of the day will connect, at St. Mary, with the 11:00am shuttle to Chief Mountain and Waterton Lakes National Park.

Leave No Trace



Challenge, adventure, a sense of discovery, and solitude can be part of your backcountry experience. But in order to ensure that Glacier’s backcountry remains unimpaired for future generations, visitors must be motivated by an ethic that compels responsibility toward the resource. It is the task of every backcountry visitor to learn and practice *Leave No Trace* skills and ethics.

Leave No Trace outdoor skills and ethics is a national program promoting responsible outdoor recreation and stewardship of our public lands. The National Park Service is a partner in this program, along with other federal land management agencies.



Bummer! Joe didn't read all the instructions and his application was returned unprocessed!

Practice the 7 Principles of Leave No Trace

PLAN AHEAD AND PREPARE

- Know and respect regulations and the risks inherent in backcountry travel.
- Select terrain, mileage, and elevation changes everyone in your group can handle.
- Carry adequate food, water, clothing, and the trip essentials (page 2).

TRAVEL AND CAMP ON DURABLE SURFACES

- Camp in designated campsites to limit impacts.
- Stay on maintained trails and walk single file down the middle of the trail, even when muddy.
- Shortcutting switchbacks is destructive and illegal.
- If you travel off trail, walk abreast and select the most durable route. Avoid fragile vegetation and saturated soils. Choose durable surfaces such as rock, snow, gravel, or dry grasses for all activities.

LEAVE WHAT YOU FIND

- All natural and cultural resources are protected by law, with the exception of berries and fish for personal consumption only.
- Never make alterations to tent sites or natural features.
- Avoid new impacts to rehabilitated areas and blocked social trails.

PROPERLY DISPOSE OF WASTE

- Keep Glacier litter free: pack it in - pack it out!
- Never bury food or garbage - pack it out.
- Use toilets when available for both urine and feces.
- In lieu of toilets, deposit feces in a cathole, 6-8" deep in organic soil, at least 200 ft. from water. Fill and disguise hole and pack out paper.
- Urinate on durable surfaces to reduce vegetation damage from salt-craving wildlife.

MINIMIZE CAMPFIRE IMPACTS

- Self-contained camp stoves are the least impact.
- Fires are restricted to designated fire pits only.
- When permitted, collect down and dead wood only (size of wrist) and keep fires small and totally contained in fire pit.

RESPECT WILDLIFE

- Enjoy wildlife at a distance. Photograph with telephoto lens.
- Never intentionally approach, feed, or harass wildlife.
- Secure food and garbage properly. Remember - a fed bear is a dead bear.

BE CONSIDERATE OF OTHER VISITORS

- Avoid conflicts with other types of users.
- Keep group size small.
- Minimize noise in camp.

Application Checklist

Before mailing your application have you?

- Reviewed the information and instructions carefully?
- Cross-referenced availability dates and special conditions noted on pages 4 & 5?
- Checked <http://www.nps.gov/glac/activities/bcguide1.htm> for the availability of backcountry sites?
- Fully completed the application? Incomplete applications will be returned.
- Highlighted your route on the map on the back side of the application?
- Enclose \$20 fee (U. S. funds), for each trip request, payable to Glacier National Park Backcountry Reservations?
- Waited until April 15, 2003, to mail or FAX in your application to:
- **Backcountry Reservations, Glacier National Park, West Glacier, MT 59936**
- **406-888-5819 (FAX)**



Enjoying Glacier's backcountry

photo by Erin Aageson

Permit #	Last Name	Date Written and Initials
Office Use Only	Office Use Only	Office Use Only

Trip Leader Information

(please print)

Name _____

Address _____

City _____

State and Zip _____

Method of Payment (\$20.00 U.S. Funds)

☐ Check ☐ Mastercard

☐ Money Order ☐ Discover

☐ Visa ☐ American Express

Credit Card Number _____

Expiration Date _____

Name on Card (please print) _____

Signature of Cardholder _____

Number of Campers _____

Number of Stock _____

Number of Watercraft _____

Daytime Phone # _____

Evening Phone # _____

email address _____

There is a maximum stay of 3 nights in any one campground in the backcountry.

Requested Trip Itinerary - 1st choice

(please print)

Day	Date	Code	Campground Name
Example	8/16	CRA	Cracker lake
Night 1	_____	_____	_____
Night 2	_____	_____	_____
Night 3	_____	_____	_____
Night 4	_____	_____	_____
Night 5	_____	_____	_____
Night 6	_____	_____	_____
Night 7	_____	_____	_____
Night 8	_____	_____	_____
Night 9	_____	_____	_____
Night 10	_____	_____	_____
Night 11	_____	_____	_____
Night 12	_____	_____	_____
Night 13	_____	_____	_____
Night 14	_____	_____	_____
Campground you want the most. _____			

What If Your First or Second Choice of Itinerary is not Available?

Will you accept different start and end dates?

Yes _____ No _____

Earliest Date You Can Enter the Backcountry _____

Last Night You Can Stay in the Backcountry _____

Will you accept minor changes on your first or second choice itinerary...for example: different campgrounds, reverse route, etc...specify campground most wanted above!

Yes _____ No _____

Requested Trip Itinerary - 2nd choice

(please print)

Day	Date	Code	Campground Name
Example	8/16	POI	Poia lake
Night 1	_____	_____	_____
Night 2	_____	_____	_____
Night 3	_____	_____	_____
Night 4	_____	_____	_____
Night 5	_____	_____	_____
Night 6	_____	_____	_____
Night 7	_____	_____	_____
Night 8	_____	_____	_____
Night 9	_____	_____	_____
Night 10	_____	_____	_____
Night 11	_____	_____	_____
Night 12	_____	_____	_____
Night 13	_____	_____	_____
Night 14	_____	_____	_____
Campground you want the most. _____			

In order to secure a trip, will you accept any route available for the dates you have listed?

Yes _____ No _____

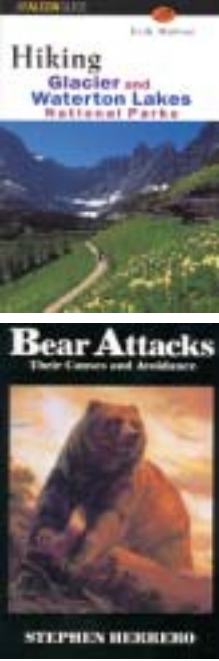
Comments...for example: max. number of miles per day, max elevation gain per day, etc _____

Helpful Publications

PRE-PLANNING IS ESSENTIAL TO A SUCCESSFUL BACKCOUNTRY EXPERIENCE. Hiking books and maps are an excellent way of preparing for your trip. The Glacier Natural History Association is a nonprofit organization working with the National Park Service to assist Glacier's educational and interpretive activities, cultural programs, and special projects. They stock a number of publications that are excellent pre-planning guides. Any of the publications listed are highly recommended, and may be purchased in person or through the mail. To order by phone or to obtain a complete catalog of publications, write or call:

Glacier Natural History Association, Box 428, West Glacier, MT 59936
(406) 888-5756
gnha@glacierassociation.org
Visit the Glacier Natural History Association online at www.glacierassociation.org

Suggested Publications to Assist in Trip Planning



Hiker's Guide to Glacier National Park	\$10.95
Glacier Natural History Association	
Hiking Glacier and Waterton Lakes National Parks	\$14.95
Erik Molvar	
Trails Illustrated Topographic Map of Glacier and Waterton Lakes National Park	\$9.95
Trails Illustrated	
Bear Aware	\$6.95
Bill Schneider	
About Bears	\$1.00
Glacier Natural History Association	
Leave No Trace Trowel	\$2.50
Northwest Interpretive Association	
Bear Attacks: Their Causes and Avoidances	\$16.95
Stephen Herrero	
A Climber's Guide to Glacier National Park	\$12.95
J. Gordon Edwards	
U. S. G. S. Topographic Map of Glacier (1998)	\$7.00
U. S. Geological Survey	
U. S. Geological Survey Topographic Quad Maps	\$4.00
U. S. Geological Survey	

Special Package Deal - Backcountry Users Package **\$29.95**
Special package price, regularly a \$44.00 value!

Includes all of the essentials needed to make your backcountry stay in Glacier enjoyable for you as well as future users. Includes: Hiking Glacier and Waterton Lakes National Parks, Trails Illustrated Topographic Map of Glacier and Waterton Lakes National Park, Bear Aware, Leave No Trace Outdoor Skills and Ethics - Rocky Mountains, About Bears, Wilderness First Aid, and a handy Leave No Trace Trowel.



photo by David Restivo

Once in a lifetime vistas, like this view from Stoney Indian Pass, are commonplace in Glacier's backcountry.

One More Thing!

Trip Leader Name

Using the map above, highlight your route with a colored marker.

Backcountry permit staff will use it to help identify your planned itinerary and your entry and exit point.

Please be patient!

Because of the volume of mail and faxes we receive, you should not expect to hear back from us for at least 2-4 weeks.

Due to staffing limitations, we cannot provide information regarding your application online, or over the phone. Thank you for your consideration.

Additional Information

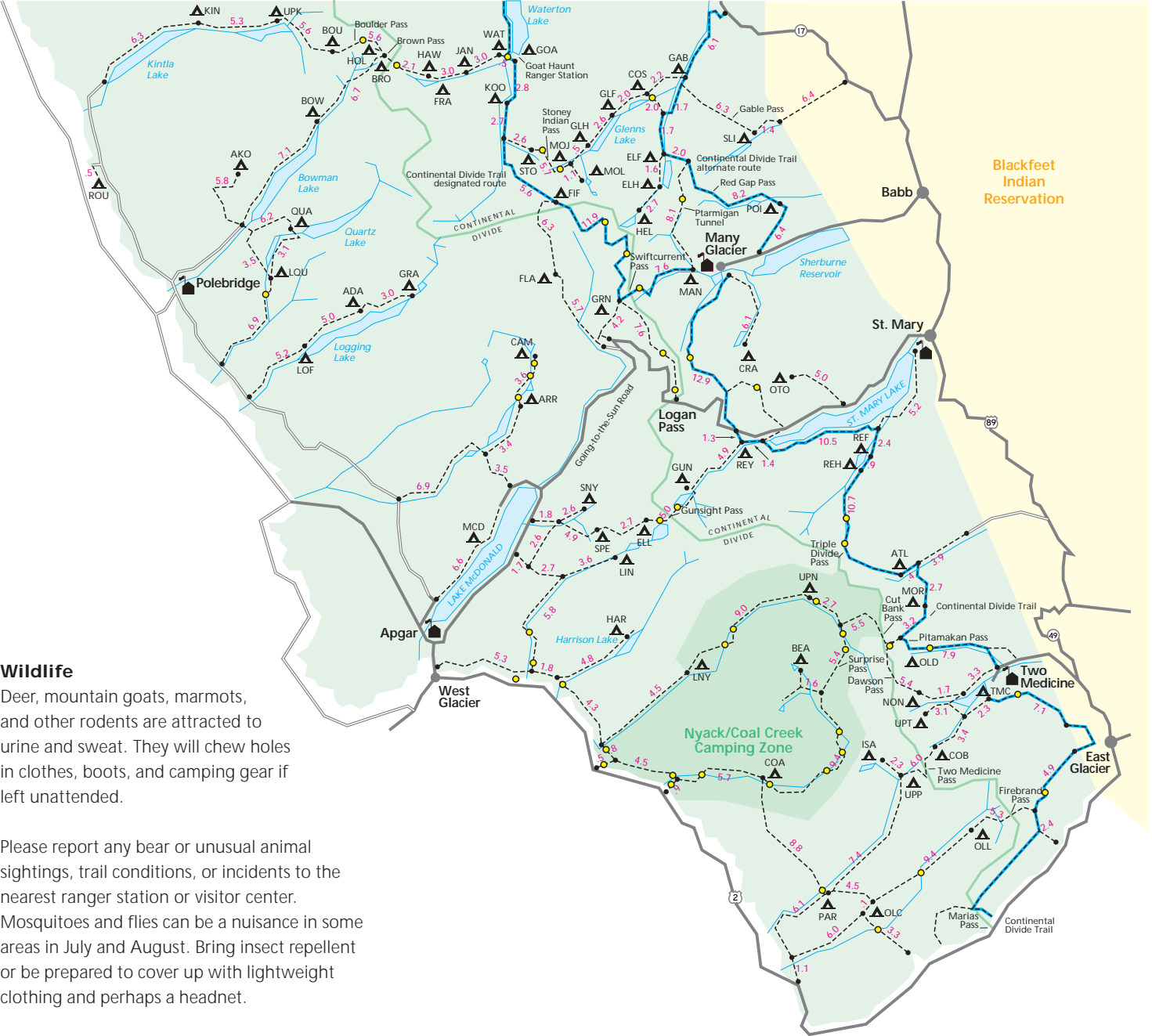
Bear-Resistant Food Containers

Bear-resistant food containers are available at most permit issuing stations for undesignated camping parties to check out, free of charge. These high impact resistant cylinders offer an excellent option for proper food storage, and are required in areas where options for proper food hanging are limited (near or above treeline, on mountain peaks, etc.).

Preserving the Backcountry

If you find litter in the backcountry, please pack it out. If you cannot pack it out, please notify park rangers where it is.

It is illegal to collect any natural or cultural resources, please leave all natural objects and cultural artifacts where you find them.



Wildlife

Deer, mountain goats, marmots, and other rodents are attracted to urine and sweat. They will chew holes in clothes, boots, and camping gear if left unattended.

Please report any bear or unusual animal sightings, trail conditions, or incidents to the nearest ranger station or visitor center. Mosquitoes and flies can be a nuisance in some areas in July and August. Bring insect repellent or be prepared to cover up with lightweight clothing and perhaps a headnet.

Thank you for helping to protect Glacier's backcountry and your National Park.